

International War Crimes Tribunal in its efforts to attribute individual responsibility and ensure justice is done.

We wish to condemn in the strongest terms the use of brutal force by the authorities of Serbia and Montenegro, their public incitements to discrimination and hatred against ethnic and religious groups, and their forced recruitment of refugees in Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina.

Mr. Chairman,

Canada sees UN Special Rapporteurs and Representatives as playing a key role in monitoring human rights violations, and in encouraging governments to improve their performance and to live up to their commitments. Their work continues to be hampered by a lack of resources and, in many instances, a lack of cooperation from governments. Canada considers all governments, without exception, obliged to cooperate fully and openly with the authoritative mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights.

In Iraq, the nightmare of human rights abuses continues, with the Commission's Special Rapporteur on Iraq describing the situation as having further deteriorated from the widespread abuses reported last year. Over the past three years, the government of Iraq has systematically sought the destruction of a people and way of life in the marshes of the Euphrates river. Meanwhile, the Kurds and other minority groups face the most severe repression. Obviously, the time is long past due for the government in Baghdad to seek accommodation with its people, as demanded by numerous UN resolutions. This Assembly should consider carefully the disturbing implications of the reports of the Special Rapporteur and do everything in its power to implement his recommendations.

Canada deplores, in the strongest terms possible, ongoing fighting between the Government of Sudan and the factions of the Southern People's Liberation Army. All parties to this conflict are guilty of gross abuses of human rights, including: torture, indiscriminate attacks on displaced persons, hijacking relief convoys and fanning the flames of religious and ethnic intolerance. Canada is especially concerned by the inflexible attitude demonstrated by the government of Sudan at the most recent IGADD-sponsored peace talks. We deplore Sudanese harassment of UN agencies and NGOs in their humanitarian relief efforts. We strongly urge the government of Sudan to cooperate with the Commission's Special Rapporteur, Mr. Gaspar Biro. Personal attacks on him are tantamount to attacks on the United Nations, and should not be tolerated.

We continue to call for renewed co-operation on the part of Iran with the Commission's Special Rapporteur, Mr. Reynaldo Galindo Pohl. It is difficult to understand any criticism of his work when he has not been allowed into the country to meet with interested groups and individuals. At the same time, we call on the Iranian authorities to exert all efforts possible to prevent the type of attacks witnessed over the last year against members of Iranian religious minorities, particularly the on-going and systematic discrimination against its